

(d) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MILLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Kerala have submitted a project for rehabilitation of coconut in Kerala to the Government of India at an estimated cost of Rs. 147.19 crore for a period of 10 years. The project aims at improving the production and productivity of coconut palm in Kerala with special attention to the eradication of root-wilt diseases in the State. The project was considered for EEC assistance. However, EEC have suggested a multi-state project for the development of coconut in the major coconut producing States such as Kerala, Karnatakks, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. EEC mission is holding preliminary discussions with these states to formulate a project.

(c) The research on root-wilt disease is being carried out at the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute Regional Station, Kayamkulam, Kerala and Kerala Agricultural University.

(d) The Etiology of the disease has been identified as Mycoplasma Like Organism. Having proved the MLO as the agent of disease, disease free palms with high yield have been identified through hot spot survey in the heavily diseased areas. The breeding programmes using these palms are in progress. In addition the coconut cultivators brought from 22 Pacific Ocean Islands planted in the World Coconut Germplasm Centre at Andaman is being used for making different combinations and further testing in the diseased areas.

The management practices developed at CPCRI have helped in increasing the yield

of palms in the eight southern districts of Kerala where disease is prevalent to a larger extent.

In the middle affected areas of northern Kerala eradication of affected palms and monitoring of disease has helped to prevent the spread of disease in that area.

Cases with Crime Branch of Delhi Police

5816. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:
SHRI M.V.
CHANDRASEKHARA
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases referred to the Crime Branch of Delhi Police during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of cases out of these have been solved; and

(c) the reasons for the remaining cases remain unsolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB) (a) The number of cases referred to the Crime Branch of Delhi Police during, 1989, 1990 and 1991 is as under:-

Year	Number of cases
1989	454
1990	573
1991	701

(b) The number of cases solved year-wise is as under:-

1989	409
1990	524
1991	655

(c) The Delhi Police have reported that in some cases culprits are not traceable. Most of the unsolved cases are difficult cases and were referred to the Crime-Branch after lapse of some time.

Kerala Committee report on natural gas pricing

5817. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the Kelkar Committee Report on Natural Gas pricing;

(b) whether the Government have approved the Report;

(c) whether the gas based projects will be affected after the implementation of the Report;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIB. SHANKARANAND)
(a)(i) Price at landfall point: Rs. 1600/1000 M3 plus increase by Rs. 200/1000M3 every year for 3 years.

(ii) Additional price on HBJ Pipeline: Rs. 850/1000M3.

(iii) Price in North Eastern States: Rs. 1000/1000M3 with a discount of Rs. 400/1000M3 on case to case basis.

(b) The Kelkar Committee's recommendations have formed the basis, with suitable

modifications, for the revised prices of natural gas that have been made effective from 1.1.1992.

(c) to (e). Since the prices of gas have been revised for the first time since 1987, gas based industries are not likely to be adversely affected.

Top-Soil Degradation

5818. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the top-soil degradation in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes proposed to be implemented to check the top-soil degradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLYRAMACHANDRAN) (a) and (b). The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Agricultural Universities, State Agricultural Research Stations, etc. are undertaking studies on top soil erosion and land degradation in the country.

(c) Substantial problem area affected by soil erosion and land degradation are being tackled under the State Sector soil and water conservation programmes; however, the efforts are also supplemented by Central Schemes. Some of the important schemes include:

A. STATE SECTOR

i) Social & Water Conservation Schemes.

ii) Afforestation in degraded forest lands.